

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CSC-01 USIA-15 OPR-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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R 191116Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3055

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, EG, KU, ZA, KE, IR

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

REF: A. STATE 193030

B. TEHRAN A-176

C. TEHRAN 7382

1. REFS B AND C DESCRIBE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS DURING THEIR VISIT TO IRAN (JULY 22-25). AS WELL BE NOTED, THEY MET WITH A NUMBER OF KEY GOI OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. BY AND LARGE IT WAS EVIDENT THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS HAD DONE THEIR HOMEWORK AND WERE PREPARED TO ASK THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS AND EVALUATE THE ANSWERS. THEY NO DOUBT LEFT IRAN WITH IMPROVED AND MORE INFORMED PRECEPTIONS OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND IRAN'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES.

2. IN OUR JUDGEMENT THE VISIT WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY IF NOT EXCLUSIVELY OF BENEFIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS. IT DID NOT MATERIALLY ENHANCE OR FURTHER OUR FOREIGN POLICY GOALS IN IRAN NOR DID IT ENLARGE OUR CIRCLE OF CONTACTS. INsofar AS LOCAL OFFICIALS AND PERSONALITIES ARE CONCERNED, THIS VISIT IS JUST ANOTHER IN A VERY LONG
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STREAM OF VISITS FROM OFFICIALS, PARLIAMENTARIANS, TRADE

DELEGATIONS, BUSINESSMEN, ACADEMICIANS, JOURNALISTS, AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT IRAN, ITS OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS. VISITORS OF THIS KIND ARE A PRESUMPTION ON THE TIME AND ATTENTION OF EXTREMELY BUSY AND FREQUENTLY OVERWORKED PERSONALITIES. WE ARE OFTEN AMAZED AT THE GRACIOUS WILLINGNESS OF THESE PEOPLE TO RECEIVE SUCH GROUPS GIVEN THE OTHER DEMANDS ON THEIR TIME. THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DO SO BESPEAKS THE CLOSENESS OF OUR RELATIONS OFFICIALLY AS WELL AS PERSONALLY WITH THOSE THE VISITORS HAVE MET. OUR CONCERN IS NOT HOW OUR RELATIONS CAN BE ENHANCED BY SUCH VISITS BUT RATHER HOW WE CAN AVOID OVERLOADING THE CIRCUIT TO ENSURE THAT OUR CONTACTS REMAIN RECEPTIVE TO REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS WITH VISITORS WHO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS TO TRANSACT.

3. OF SOMEWHAT LESS CONCERN, BUT STILL RELATIVE TO THE USEFULNESS OF SUCH VISITS, IS THE DEMAND THEY MAKE ON EMBASSY TIME AND PERSONNEL. APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE, SCHEDULES MUST BE ARRANGED, TRANSPORTATION MUST BE PROVIDED, ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE FOUND AND AT LEAST ONE SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER BECOMES FULLY OCCUPIED IN ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP DURING THEIR STAY. WE ARE GLAD TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES IF IT IS BELIEVED BENEFITS ACCRUING TO THE VISITORS JUSTIFY THEM.

HELMS

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